

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, October 14. 1707.

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**T**H E Campaigns abroad begin to draw to a Close ; Fighting and Killing is a coming to a Conclusion, and the poor Soldiers will get a *Recess* for this Year. In *Flanders*, I have had the ill Fortune to be a true Prophet; there has been no Fighting, nor is there like to be any there this Year ; and had our Army there been 20000 Men less, we had done happily, and that 20000 Men might have done brave things in other Places, where they have been sorely wanted : It was very plain in the Beginning of the Year, they would not fight, it was not their Business to fight, it was not their Interest ; I know, the Hopes of forcing them to it has kept our Armies together there, but I must own, I never saw any Hopes of it from the Beginning of the Campaign ; I know, 'tis not

an easie thing to force 50000 Men to fight, whether they will or no, and 'tis apparent, that as much as we are us'd to despise the *French*, yet we have not been able, either to force them to a Battle, or to form any Siege, nor so much as to take one Town from them——

Nor is this owing to any Deficiency, either in the Army, or Generals on our side ; but to the unhappy Situation of the Country, and the defenceless Posture of *Brussels*, *Louvain*, *Ghent*, *Bruges*, *Malines*, *Amwerp*, &c. which, had we persisted in the Design to push into *Artois*, and the *French* Conquests, would have immediately have fallen a-Prey to the Enemy.

All I regret in this, is, That we did not stand on the *Defensive* here, rather than the *French*, and so dividing our Forces, make some

some Attempt elsewhere, in which we might more sensibly have push'd the *French* Power, and pinch'd them with more Advantage, than we could do here; but 'tis now too late for this Year, so That Part of the Campaign I take to be over.

On the *Rhine*, the Campaign is in all Probability at an End also; and the Elector of *Hannover*, who is arriv'd in the Army, is so sensible of the weak Condition of the *German* Army, and of their being unfit for Action, that he is so far from offering to attack the *French*, that he applies himself, as to the principal thing before him, to Entrenching, Fortifying, and Drawing Lines, in order to prevent the *French* attacking them: Nor do I see any Prospect on that side, of driving the *French* back again over the *Rhine* this Winter; for the *French* being still superiour in Number there, and our Troops on that side not the best in *Europe*, they are too wise to give you Possession again of the Passes at *Bhule*, or Opportunity to rebuild the Lines at *Stalhoffen*. The Strength of those Lines, and the Care Prince *Lewis* of *Baden* always took to defend them, was always like a Back-Door bolted, by which the Empire was secur'd, and the *French* kept out; and now they have got that Door open'd, they will not let it be shut again, if they can help it——But will secure both Winter Quarters and Contributions in the Empire for this Year——And thus the Empire is like to smart still for their supine Negligence; and if it will but rouse them at last to their own Defence, 'tis a good Cure wrought, and let the *French* be the *Doctors*; when they are awake, they will remedy it, at present the Physick must have some time to work, and make them sick.

Again, in *Piedmont* the Campaign seems over; the Confederates, disappointed in their Design against *Iboulon*, are busie recruiting their Troops, repairing their Losses, and putting themselves in a Posture for another Season, and seem to be laying aside the Thoughts of any farther Attempt. They have made a *Loose Game* Voyage, and they are not so forward to attempt another, as we hoped they would be; but princi-

pally from the Necessity they seem to be in, of sending Assistance to *Naples* and *Calabria*, which when they have done, they will be too weak for any future Action for this Season.

In two Places only the Expectation of Action remains, and that is in *Italy* and *Spain*; the Conquest of *Naples*, which we flatter'd our selves, was over, appears not so compleat, as we hop'd it was; the Duke of *Asturi* on the side of the *Abruzzo* has about 4000 Men with him, says our side, 8000 says the Enemy, and he adheres to the Enemy, fortifies *Piscara*, and several other Places on the Coast of *Calabria*; keeps his Communication with the Sea open, by which he receives Succours from *Sicily*, and expects more from *France*; the Viceroy, for King *Phillip* does the like at *Gaeta*, and the *Germans*, notwithstanding their sudden Conquest of the Capital City, and the Revolution of the common People there, seem not to be in a Condition to attack either *Gaeta* or *Piscara*, and already begin to send for more Troops, tho' we all know, they have not lost 10 Men by the Sword in the whole Affair.

And what is the Reason of all this, but the usual Ill-Management of the *Germans*, even the same by which they exasperated the *Bavarians*, when they had gotten Possession of them; where instead of making the People they were to govern, easie, and naturalize them to their new Masters, they fell to all Manner of Oppressions and intollerable Vexations, and made the poor Countrymen weary of their new Lords?

'Tis true, we do not hear of any Oppressions yet in *Naples* by establish'd Taxes, because the People were to the last Degree exalted on before; but we find their old Gabels, which they hoped to be reliev'd from, not taken away, and the Nobility not pleas'd; the great Men falling out with one another, and all striving to put the People out of Conceit with their new Lords. We find the Joy of their first Revolution abated, and the Mob less pleas'd with their new Masters, than we heard they were at first.



The Disappointment at *Thoulon* has also its Influences here, and makes the Partisans of King *Phillip* shew themselves with more Forwardness. They expect, the Confederate Fleet cannot winter there, and in their Turn the *French* may peep out, and have Time to relieve them : And these are no small Reasons, why they should send for more Troops to compleat their Conquests in Time, before the *French* may come to the Relief of their Friends ; and indeed, since they have begun their unhappy Enterprize, it behoves them to maintain it, whatever it cost ; it has been a dear Bargain already, and must not be let go again.

Nor will it be kept but by Force ; the Voice of the Mob is not to be depended upon ; they are one Way to day, and another to morrow ; the fluctuating Nobility, there especially, are like them too, having every Man's separate Interest and private Fortunes to secure and raise ; every one that is not fully gratify'd, turns Malecontent, and flies in the Face of the State.

We need not go far from home for Instances of this Kind, when we had here not long since Numbers of People, who treated King *William* with the very same thing, gave him the Shout and the Curse, the Hiss and the Huzza, the Hosannah and the Crucifix, almost all in a Breath ; to day their Saviour, to morrow the Dutch Man ; to day their Hero, to morrow their Nero ; now invite him as their Deliverer, then expulse him as their Invader ; to day he is of the Royal Race and next of Blood, to morrow a Stranger ; to day the Panegyrick, to morrow the Forreigners, *A Satyr*. Think it not strange, if it should be so in *Naples*, and therefore the *Germans* do well in sending for more Forces.

And thus I have given you a short State of the War in Europe, the Affair of Spain compleats it, there the Campaign is but now beginning ; if King *Charles* can maintain his Ground there now, if he can but hold his own this Autumn Campaign, we must own, he does all that can be asked of him, and he will quite alter the Scene of Affairs there ; for doubtless by another Campaign he will be powerfully reliev'd. The

brave Earl of *Galloway* has shewn himself to be, what all the World knew him to be, an Expert, Wise, as well as Daring General ; nor has all the Discouragements he has met with, no nor his battered Person, lessn'd his waking Diligence in the Defence of his Charge ; He has lost one Arm and one Eye for this *Spanish* Cause, and yet you find him at the Head of every Action ; and even in this Weakness of his Affairs, he bid fair the other day for surprizing the Duke of *Orleans*, and all his Cavalry, and giving a new Turn by it to the State of things there.

He has again'd him, by the Accounts, 70 Battalions and 60 Squadrons on one side, under the Duke of *Orleans* and the Duke of *Berwick* ; and 30 Battalions and 15 Squadrons on the side of *Rossillon*, under the Duke de *Noailles* ; He has a Body of 6000 Horse and Dragoons, indeed of good Troops, but for his *Italy*, he cannot bring 8000 Men into the Field, the Garrison of *Lerida*, *Torrosa*, *Giron*, and *Barcelona* excepted, which he has to defend ; if this Game can be play'd safe, we must speak in Praise of the Gamester, few Generals in the World, but my Lord *Galloway*, could have done it.

On the side of *Portugal*, we hope, Succours from *England* and *Holland* may in time restore things ; and if the *French* and *Spaniards* do break into the Frontiers a little, it may be retriev'd again. And in this Condition, Gentlemen, we leave the Campaign for a Season, let the Men of War manage their Trade of Blood and Destruction, how they please ; we have a new Campaign nearer home, to which we are called, and must there embark in a Defensive War, against a sort of Enemies equally mischievous, and fatally bent to the Destruction of our Peace, and the Subversion of the Protestant Interest of Europe ; with these having declared open War, and they continually offering all Manner of Violence to Peace, Law, Right and Property ; we must now contend ; of them we know no more, but fair Reasoning, and that they would give Way to Truth and Demonstration.

Unhappy is the Case of this Nation, to have such Enemies as these to deal with ; but it cannot be remedy'd, they must be oppos'd,



oppos'd, they must be fought with, or they will insult every Body that pretends to speak a Word in the Favour of their Country's Cause; and since this War is more mischievous than Battle and Blood, it requires the utmost Caution in the Management: I shall farther explain my self in my next.

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